

NOAA in the Carolinas Steering Committee Meeting

Date: Thursday, August 15

Time: 10 AM until 2 PM

Location: NC Sea Grant - 1575 Varsity Drive, Raleigh, NC. Building 250A – conference room

Present: Jennifer Dorton, Jeremy Schulz, Jack Thigpen, Aleta Hohn, Darin Figurskey, Ginny Fay, Mike Voiland

On Phone: Susan White, Andy Shepard, Rebecca Ellin, Bob Bacon

Visitor: Chris Russo, NC Dept of Environment and Natural Resources

Meeting Notes

1. Website update plan:
 - a. NinC Presentations: **Andy to find 2007; Darin provided 2004; and Aleta has 2008.**
 - b. Add steering committee agendas and meeting notes to website under meetings.
 - c. Find SECART map w/ all NOAA offices listed:
 1. <http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?ie=UTF8&hl=en&oe=UTF8&msa=0&msid=101944193549440567736.00044930ddf7f3f8b9864>
 - d. Need 2008 meeting report – **Aleta**
 - e. Update Contacts section
 - f. “Who we are” – **mission statement and NinC info will be updated by Jennifer and sent to SC for comments/additions and feedback.** We have purpose/mission statements in some of the presentations. Need to clearly define mission and objectives. Need to also define how we fit into SECART. Emphasize regionalism within NinC and highlight that we are a grassroots effort (not top down). Emphasize extramural partners & implement projects.
 1. Mission: What we do.
 2. Purpose: Describes why we are unique; what do we do that no one else is doing; why we exist.
 3. Chris Russo happy to look over what we come up with and provide input.
2. NinC 2008 meeting report status. When will it be finalized and sent out to larger NinC community? - **Aleta**
 - a. Many changes made to report from last SC meeting
 - b. Need working group summaries (**still need from Jack and Darin**) – one paragraph summary for discussions.
 - c. Goal – by end of August to send out to group for final proofread.

3. Update of SA Alliance – Ginny & Chris Russo (NC DENR)

- a. NC & FL have agreed to Alliance; GA has some issues that they want addressed; SC – still waiting to find out if SC is happy with agreement
- b. SC – awaiting direct discussion with Gov to assure agreement. Think they will be ok with agreement but need to get administrative issues cleared up.
- c. Recommend ceremony for signing w/ each Gov talking about their pieces and the importance of Alliance. Can have streaming video ceremony instead of getting 4 Gov in one place.
- d. Signing ceremony – no date/place yet (maybe Charleston). Chris wants to have the ceremony plans made by September (key to do before change in administration) and the SA Alliance stood up before election day. Chris would also like the SA Alliance Action plan ready for public comment by election day as well.
- e. CEQ letter to be hand delivered to Washington, DC within next few days.
- f. The 4 areas of interest are all of interest to NinC. NinC can be an advisory body for Alliance and can implement tasks ID'd by Alliance. Four areas of interest are:
 - 1. Healthy ecosystems
 - 2. Clean coasts and oceans
 - 3. Working waterfronts
 - 4. Disaster resilient communities
- g. Steering teams selected by Govs. Partners include NGO's, academics, and private sector for support and input. Also incorporated DoD for Homeland Security issues. NinC to provide input/support and assist on work groups.
- h. Eastern North Carolina Sustainability Partnership (part of SERPPAS): holistic and systemic model to deal with resources. SERPPAS has asked NC to adopt model that can be used by other states. Mostly terrestrial but now incorporating "water". SC and GA starting to do something similar. Bill Ross (co-chair) wants SERPPAS to pick up water, basins and climate change. CI-FLOW can play part in this.
- i. Where is SG regional research plan (Mike) – launching web-based survey to poll the public on their perceived coastal issues. Need to marry this to Alliance areas of interest as well.
- j. NERR's is a NOAA and State program so they can also be involved, especially to help fill the need for real integration of water quality into a strategy. Can pull together existing resources to expand upon this.
- k. Susan available to help if needed

4. Seafood Festival Booth? Yes

- a. Aleta, Rich and Mike have staff working on the booth. This is in the works.

- b. October 3-5, 2008 in Morehead City, NC
- c. Is there a parallel effort in SC?
 - 1. Upcoming SC Water Resources Conference will be held at the Charleston Convention Center, October 14-15.
 - 2. 5th Annual Sustainable Seafood Festival, October 26 at SC Aquarium. Would be good to have NOAA flyers to pass out. Jessica Wilson is contact (843) 579-8632 – SC Aquarium. Look at who is sponsoring and what mission of the event is supposed to meet. Scrutinize this.
 - 3. Wildlife EXPO held annually in Charleston every year. Mission of the event might not be appropriate but look into. Some Wildlife orgs are starting to focus on environmentally friendly concepts (eco-friendly management, water quality, etc).
 - 4. Send Jennifer e-mail w/ any other ideas. Jennifer contact Mike Emlaw and Jeff Payne for more info.
- 5. Who is on the formal Steering Committee list? Aleta provided & Darin updated.
 - a. Mike wants to establish a listserv for SC and for the larger group.
 - b. Jennifer work with Andy to set up listserv at UNCW w/ SC members.
 - c. Jennifer will maintain listserv.
- 6. Also for general communications (such as funding/meeting opportunities) should we send out to entire NinC group?
 - a. Broadcast these items; also gives people the chance to see NinC in action during year
 - b. Mike: Add disclaimer that states how to remove themselves from the listserv.
 - c. Jeremy set up larger listserv and add place on website “sign-up for listserv”
 - d. NWS will maintain the group listserv.
 - e. Blog on website? Maybe use this for topic issues. RSS feed to tell when website has been updated (Jeremy).
- 7. What is the next “it”?
 - a. Discuss the EPA meeting held on July 9. Was there a common thread coming out of the meeting that we want to address? Are their partnership opportunities?
 - 1. EPA meeting did include both Carolinas and value ecosystem resources that were there. Seems there is room for lots of opportunities. Bring together NOAA, EPA and states.
 - 2. Chris: Lots of overlap and duplication of services highlighted at meeting.
 - 3. Aleta: 3rd day of meeting, EPA tried to focus more. First 2 days were an inventory. EPA has pressure to be non-redundant. EPA will have second meeting

in SC and another coastal meeting. How can we best guide them and provide input?

4. Susan: The EPA meeting in SC will take place in October. This meeting should take a more focused approach if feasible to do so. Will [send e-mail with agenda when it comes out](#).
 5. Ginny: By time the EPA work gets started, will probably be beginning of next year. APNEP IEA complementary to EPA effort. Good opportunity to work in estuarine areas.
 6. We will look at the EPA agenda at the September NinC SC meeting, determine who on the SC will be attending the meeting and decide if Jennifer needs to attend as well.
- b. Message from Dean Carpenter: IEA for the Albemarle-Pamlico with a target date of late 2010. The target stressors will be land-use change and climate change.
1. Who in NinC is a good contact and can serve on A-P committee? Some NOAA people are already on APNEP scientific and technical advisory committee. This is an opportunity for NinC to advise and steer group.
 2. Andy – need more details from Dean to see what they are doing to see if work can be expanded and is portable.
 3. Ginny – We can help advise to get a foot in door.
 4. Darin – Might not be “it” but it is a good opportunity for us to get involved. Steering committee can help, but doesn’t necessarily have to be SC member.
 5. Jack – over 90 people involved in APNEP boards. Jack is on Policy Committee.
 6. Rebecca – Thinks NinC and SECART can have role. Need to tie our participation back to the NinC mission and purpose.
 7. Andy – A/P faced with enormous amounts of change (climate, development, etc) so don’t need to worry so much about geographic issues (NC/SC/GA).
 8. Ginny – good opp to look at inshore/offshore coastal interaction for IEA. How do we prioritize? Dean wants to know if there is a NinC contact. Please send possible NOAA contact to Ginny by the end of the month? Bay Saint Louis meeting in early September with NOAA IEA group and Gulf Alliance to discuss modeling and data management needs required to support IEAs.
 9. Darin – Have Dean Carpenter come to a SC meeting so we can discuss more.
[Add to agenda for next meeting](#).
- c. Tie climate and ecosystems into next project, possibly with a fisheries focus. Geographically, there is a push to work in the Albemarle-Pamlico. Do we have a comparison site in SC?

1. Chris Russo – Dean is looking for connectivity to regional issues and science leveraging. Don't focus on climate change – look at water, energy & land use and relationship to climate change. Look at how NinC fits in relation to these 3 areas.
- d. Long Bay Hypoxia study – high flounder catches, low DO on bottom. Recent glider deployments (Andy Shepard/Denise Sanger) to gather more info.
 1. Can tie to climate/ecosystem health
 2. What is the cause? Tied to pollution, WQ, drought, run-off?
 3. Jennifer to contact Braxton Davis (SC DHEC), Denise Sanger, Madilyn Fletcher, and Andy Shepard to get more info. Also find out if Wendy Woods has the glider data ready to view.
 4. Bob, send name of PI for SCSG project, to Jennifer & Mike.
 5. Can send recommendation to IOOS to get the Caro-COOPS buoys that were off of Sunset Beach back in the water for this specific project. Shows we need more sensors in more places.
 6. May also tie to future CAMEO proposal opportunities.
 7. Rebecca willing to talk to SC NERRs co-workers about possible connection if this looks like something we want to pursue.
- e. Call for templates once we have narrowed our criteria? Revisit the templates that we have (found at <http://www.carolinas.noaa.gov/JointResearch.pdf>).
 1. When ready to go out with Templates again, maybe the listserv will help focus this effort.
 2. Darin – Used templates to hone “it” and focus the NinC meeting. May not need templates for future meetings.
 3. General agreement to not use templates for next meeting
8. When/where do we host the NOAA in the Carolinas meeting?
 - a. Decide “when” once we know our “it” topic. Need to have more preparation: background documents, understanding which NOAA groups play a part, etc.
 - b. April to June timeframe earliest (mid to late May possibly)
 - c. Time to return to SC. Ft. Johnson campus, Grand Strand area or Coastal Carolina University. Will need auditorium and 3 classrooms.
 - d. 2 day meeting v/s 3 day meeting.
 - e. Susan is going to check on availability at Ft. Johnson for month of May.
9. Next NinC meeting date – Meet in Wilmington. Jennifer will check with NWS office on Sept. 11. Everyone get back to Jennifer. 10-2 PM